

**AMENDMENTS**

1-13. (Canceled)

14. (Previously Presented) A method of fabricating a septum comprising applying radial tension to a second layer and bonding the second layer to a first layer of resilient material, wherein said second layer is held in radial tension between 5 and 1000 newton/m and wherein the septum maintains a seal following penetration by a member in an axial direction and withdrawal.

15. (Original) A method according to Claim 14 wherein the second layer is a resilient material.

16. (Previously Presented) A method of fabricating a septum comprising applying radial tension to a second layer and a third layer and bonding the second and third layers to opposite surfaces of a first layer of resilient material such that the bonded second and third layers are under tension, wherein said second and third layer are held in radial tension between 5 and 1000 newton/m and wherein the septum maintains a seal following penetration by a member in an axial direction and withdrawal.

17. (Original) A method according to Claim 16 wherein the tension is applied to the second and third layers prior to and during bonding to the first layer.

18. (Original) A method according to Claim 17 wherein the tension is applied by pulling on the second and third layers.

19. (Original) A method according to Claim 16 wherein the tension is applied to the second and third layers by chemical or thermal shrinkage after bonding to the first layer.

20. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 14 wherein the first layer is

held in a compression of between 5 to 1000 newton/m.

21. **(Currently Amended)** A method according to Claim **[[20]] 16** wherein each of the second and third layers comprise a resilient material.

22. (Original) A method according to Claim 21 wherein each of the first, second and third layers comprise a resilient polymer.

23. (Original) A method according to Claim 21 wherein each of the first, second and third layers has a thickness of less than 10 mm.

24. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 16 wherein after bonding to the second and third layers, the first layer is held in compression by the second and third layers.

25. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 16 wherein the first layer is held in a compression of between 5 to 1000 newton/m.

26. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 24 wherein the compression is applied to the first layer after bonding to the second and third layers, by chemical or thermal expansion of the first layer.

27. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 24 wherein the compression is applied to the first layer after bonding to the second and third layers, by pre-chilling the first layer or by chemical means.